

**A Regular Town Board meeting was held on November 2, 2017 at Lysander Town Hall, 8220 Loop Road, Baldwinsville, New York.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joseph Saraceni, Supervisor  
Robert Ellis, Councilor  
Peter Moore, Councilor  
Robert Geraci, Councilor  
Roman Diamond, Councilor

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** NONE

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Attorney Anthony Rivizzigno; Gene Dinsmore, Highway Superintendent; Dina Falcone, Town Clerk; Al Yager, Town Engineer; David Rahrle, Comptroller; Tony Burkinshaw, Parks and Recreation Supervisor; and several residents.

**Supervisor Saraceni called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the Pledge to the Flag.**

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Supervisor Saraceni added a budget work session November 8, 2017 at 5:00 PM in the conference room.

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### **Public Hearing for Adoption of Local Law**

#### **RES #201/2017**

A motion to open the Public Hearing occurred at 7:03 PM. **The motion was seconded by Councilor Geraci and Councilor Diamond.**

**Town Clerk Dina Falcone** read the Public Hearing Notice which was published in the Post Standard on October 10, 2017 as follows: *“A public hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of Lysander on Thursday, November 2, 2017 at Lysander Town Hall, 8220 Loop Road, Baldwinsville, New York, at 7:00 PM, with respect to the adoption of a local law to override the tax levy limit established in GML Section 3-c. Please take further notice that a copy of said proposed local law is available for review in the Town Clerk’s Office. By Order of the Town Board, dated October 3, 2017.”*

**Supervisor Saraceni** stated that the Board is considering this local law which would allow the Town of Lysander to override the tax levy limit. The budget isn’t ready to be released as of yet, but will be made available during the work session on November 8<sup>th</sup>, and for the public hearing on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Attorney Rivizzigno** mentioned there is no environmental impact on the aforementioned local law.

#### **CITIZENS COMMENTS REGARDING PUBLIC HEARING**

**Jim Stirushnik** of Dinglehole Road said *“I am against this local [law] as the town doesn’t have to do that, this town does not have enough poor low income people who can qualify for funds from the government, as opposed to Syracuse where we are a town where a new home costs \$250K, and we are proposing to spend \$500,000 for a seasonal recreational facility for the park, considering a number of other things I don’t think we need to increase taxes more than that as prescribed by law. I consider it poor work by you gentlemen that you can’t abide by the law, rather than using this little gimmick that is used for more important things.”*

**Hugh Kimball** of Dexter Parkway said *“I am not so much against it but as just a caution. Last year you had little choice. The previous administration did not leave you with a whole lot of reserves, and you had to make sure you were stable and to handle emergencies and unthought-of. I hope you did a good job of staying within your budget and making proper choices between needs and wants. If you’re going to exceed the budget by much more permission for that you really will sharpen your pencil between now and November 9<sup>th</sup>.”*

**Supervisor Saraceni** said that after this process the Board will come up with a rate based on expenditures, allocated fund balance... This public hearing is in regard to the law.

**Fred Burtch** of Plainville Road asked “*Do we know what the rate is going to be this year? I FOILED some paperwork last week regarding the fund balances and assessments and I can see the last three, since 2014 our assessment has gone up over almost \$80M in three years so you would take that increase tax rate that we get and apply that, not only to that increased 80 to, any idea how much extra funds?*”

**Supervisor Saraceni** said the Board is focusing on the law at this time.

**RES #202/2017**

A motion to adjourn the Public Hearing occurred at 7:07 PM. **The motion was seconded by Councilor Geraci and Councilor Diamond.**

*All persons, desiring to be heard, having been heard, the public hearing was terminated at 7:07 PM.*

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**CITIZENS COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS**

**Kevin Rode** of Greymoor Way asked if the Gator would be sold at auction. **Supervisor Saraceni** said the Town doesn't need two Gators. Mr. Rode asked that if (the purchase of a new Gator) is in the budget it would stay in the budget.

**Fred Burtch** of Plainville Road said he was looking at the numbers that Mr. Rahrle provided to him, and he saw that the 2014 assessment going up roughly \$80M. He said he is trying to figure out if there is a way he can find out, and said that if the Town had a 0 budget, as opposed to a 5% budget, what the increased revenue to the town would be for the higher assessment, as opposed to the total assessment.

**Supervisor Saraceni** stated if we could simplify it, the difference between the assessment last year, this year and last year it went up approximately \$42,000M. He said you can take the same rate for additional revenue. Mr. Burtch asked when the Town has a change in \$40M to \$50M is that mostly due to build out or a plant increased in value or an assessment. **Mr. Rahrle** said he would have to ask Theresa Golden that question as she would know.

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**TOWN BOARD COMMENTS**

**Supervisor Saraceni** said he had the opportunity to participate in the window painting project this past weekend, and he said the weather was beautiful. He complimented the Lion's Club for helping out, and said there were a number of other organizations as well, it's a long tradition. He thanked the businesses for participating. **Mr. Burkinshaw** said there were 250 kids who participated. **Supervisor Saraceni** told Mr. Burkinshaw he did a good job.

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**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**RES#203/2017**

**Motion by Councilor Geraci seconded by Councilor Moore** to adopt the October 19, 2017 Town Board Meeting minutes.

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Absent
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Aye		

**All Ayes, motion carried and adopted**

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**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

**Gene Dinsmore, Highway Superintendent**, said that HW finished the binder paving on Mercer Street. The finish coat will go on in the spring. The goal was to get it done by November 1<sup>st</sup>. Residents are happy to have their sump pumps hooked up to a working drain. He said the residents are thankful for what the HW has done this year. HW put the sanders on the trucks and they are ready for the winter.

**Tony Burkinshaw, Parks and Recreation Supervisor** said that the window painting event was successful. He thanked Mr. Rode, Supervisor Saraceni, the Village of Baldwinsville, and the Lion’s Club for volunteering. Cleanup will occur this Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup>. The facilities in the park are closed for the season/winterized. The playground area will remain open. The park trails and basketball courts are still accessible. He thanked the councilors for nice comments made regarding the spray park and their support of the parks.

**Councilor Geraci** asked Mr. Burkinshaw about the status of the tree planting in the park. **Mr. Burkinshaw** said they have staked the trees coming in and will be planting 12 variations of oaks coming into the main trail of the park. Next year they budgeted for more regarding the tree planting and to take down some diseased ash trees. Trees will be planted on Monday.

**Councilor Geraci** said he was pleased to help with the tree project in the park. The White Ash is on its way out because of the Emerald Ash Borer. Parks is slowly replacing its trees. **Mr. Burkinshaw** said the goal is to have a combination of Burr and White Oak along the trail, as well as Sugar Maples in the future.

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**REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS**

**MOTION TO ADOPT LOCAL LAW TO OVERRIDE  
TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GML §3-C**

**RES#204/2017**

**Motion made by Councilor Geraci seconded by Councilor Moore** to adopt a local law to override the tax levy limit established in GML §3-c.

Supervisor Saraceni    Aye            Councilor Ellis            Aye            Councilor Geraci    Aye  
Councilor Moore        Aye            Councilor Diamond       Aye

**All Ayes, motion carried and adopted**

*Discussion:*

*Amongst Board Members: This law gives the Board the ability to override the tax levy limit. New York State has put every municipality in a bad place because there is no way to account for inflation unless you cut services like maintaining roads and parks. The people in Albany think they did a good thing. The Town is boxed into a corner. There have been cuts made. It doesn't get the Town down to that point. Health insurance costs are increasing and the Town has no control of that. The Board is trying to do the right thing for the community.*

**MOTION TO ALLOW THE PARKS AND RECREATION  
DEPARTMENT'S JOHN DEER GATOR DECLARED AS SURPLUS**

**RES#205/2017**

**Motion made by Councilor Ellis seconded by Councilor Diamond** to allow the Parks and Recreation Department's John Deer Gator, Tag #005-02052, be declared surplus.

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Absent
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Aye		

**All Ayes, motion carried and adopted**

**Discussion:**

*According to Mr. Burkinshaw, the Gator is 15 years old; Parks put a new clutch kit, shocks and tires on it, and when Parks was ready to winterize it noticed it has a leak. They have been asking for a new Gator. In order for the Gator to get auctioned off it needs to be deemed as surplus.*

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**CITIZENS COMMENTS RELATED TO TOWN BUSINESS**

**Jim Stirushnik** of Dinglehole Road asked if the County stayed within the 2% limitations. **Supervisor Saraceni** said he wasn't sure. Mr. Stirushnik asked about how many years it has been a law. **Supervisor Saraceni** said four or five years. Mr. Stirushnik mentioned Towns and Counties with the exception of New York City, and wondered why municipalities haven't gotten organized to talk to their representatives so they would understand the position they are in and possibly get the law changed. Discussion ensued regarding the 2% tax cap and Albany.

**Fred Burtch** of Plainville Road spoke regarding the tax cap regarding some municipalities having a large fund balance. He asked if there is a way to find out which municipalities are, or are not abiding by the tax cap. **Supervisor Saraceni** said to call the State Comptroller, but mentioned that there is report that the Town has on its website, from the NYS Comptroller's Office, which he says 'paints a rosier picture' for local municipalities than you'd expect to hear from the consensus team. It is remarkable how healthy small municipalities are. Mr. Burtch asked about contacting Town Comptrollers and asking why they are or are not successful and is that due to a healthy fund balance.

**Mr. Burtch** asked about elected positions where there might be two people holding office at the same time. He asked about transitions, and having one person in power other than the Town Board. **Attorney Rivizzigno** said he doesn't know how they could. Mr. Burtch laid out a scenario regarding same. **Councilor Geraci** stated that you don't take office until the New Year. Discussion ensued regarding hypothetical scenarios and answers to same. Mr. Burtch mentioned the Mercer Street project and having seen a candidate on the work site. He asked about the circumstances. Discussion ensued regarding a candidate's interest in the work site and Town employees at the work site. **Supervisor Saraceni** said he didn't know what happened regarding that situation.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Public Hearing:** Thursday, November 9, 2017, 7:00 pm, regarding adoption of the 2018 Budget, 7:00 pm in the Auditorium.

**Town Board Meeting:** Thursday, November 16, 2017, 7:00 pm, Work Session begins at 5:30 pm in the Auditorium. (Adoption of the 2018 Budget shall occur at this meeting).

**Public Hearing:** Thursday, November 16, 2017, 7:00 pm, regarding Stop Sign placement northbound of Samantha Drive at the southern end of Venetian Drive, and at the northern end of Venetian Drive entering Samantha Drive. 7:00 pm in the Auditorium.

**Planning Board Meeting:** Thursday, November 16, 2017, 7:00 pm, in the Large Group Room. The November 9, 2017 meeting is CANCELLED.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**RES#206/2017**

**A motion was made by Councilor Diamond and seconded by Councilor Moore** to adjourn the regular Town Board Meeting and enter into Executive Session to discuss a land acquisition matter at 7:36 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**A motion was made by Councilor Moore and seconded by Councilor Ellis** to adjourn the Executive Session at 8:05 pm.

This is a true and complete recording  
of the action taken at this meeting.

Dina Falcone, Town Clerk